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Message Text

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21-12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 FRB-02

XMB-07 /192 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7198
INFO USDOC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, CGEN
SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LUKANOV COMMENTS ON DETENTE AND US-BULGARIAN TRADE AND OTHER RELATIONS

1. ON OCTOBER 29 TURKISH RECEPTION DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LUKANOV MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON DETENTE AND US-BULGARIAN TRADE AND OTHER RELATIONS.

2. DETENTE: AFTER STATING THAT GOB HAS TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE EFFECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR ON DETENTE, LUKANOV SAID HE PERSONALLY FEELS THAT CRISIS HAS MADE DETENTE STRONGER THAN EVER AND HAS PROVEN ITS TRUE VALUE FOR PEACE. BASED ON HIS THOROUGH KNOWLDEGE OF THE SOVIET UNION (HE WAS BORN AND RAISED THERE), HE APPRECIATES WHAT A SERIOUS SHIFT IN POLICY THIS IS, LUKANOV SAID. HE ADDED THAT DETENTE'S PROVEN STRENGTH HAS BEEN A REAL SETBACK FOR THOSE WHO SAID IT WAS ONLY A FACADE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE PERSONALLY BE-
LIEVES THAT AN HONEST AND PERMANENT PEACE CAN BE NEGOTIATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. LUKANOV'S POSITIVE AT-
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TITUDE TOWARD DETENTE AND A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT,

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IS, OF COURSE, SELF SERVING SINCE HIS SUCCESS AND
REPUTATION ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH IMPROVED TRADE
RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.

3. US-BULGARIAN TRADE RELATIONS: DESPITE MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS, LUKANOV SAID HE THOUGHT US-BULGARIAN TRADE RE-
LATIONS WERE CONTINUING TO INCREASE NOTING THAT FIRST
DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PEEV IS NOW IN THE STATES
ON A SERIOUS MISSION AND THAT US FIRM FMC HAS MISSION
IN BULGARIA CURRENTLY. HE THEN EMPHASIZED THAT IF BUL-
GARIA IS TO BUY US EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, US CREDITS
AND GUARANTEES (EXIM BANK) ARE NECESSARY AND HE HOPES
AN AGREEMENT ON THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT SOON. I RE-
MINDED HIM THAT THIS WAS UNLIKELY SINCE THE QUESTION
OF THE BONDS HAD NOT BEEN TACKLED, TO MY KNOWLDEGE. LU-
KONOV REPLIED AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, THAT WAS A PROBLEM
WHICH GOB WAS PREPARED TO SETTLE QUICKLY. AFTER EX-
PLAINING SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING THE TRADE
BILL, I ASKED LUKANOV IF HE WAS AWARE OF THE JACKSON-VANIK
AMENDMENT WHICH IF PASSED WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THE
TRADE PICTURE MAKING THE PROSPECT OF ANY EXIM BANK CREDITS
FOR BULGARIA VERY UNLIKELY. (FLANIGAN'S REQUEST FOR POST-
PONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE TRADE BILL AND THE
JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT ARE BEING MAILED TO LUKANOV.)

4. CONSULAR AGREEMENT: LUKANOV SAID HE THOUGHT THE CON-
SULAR AGREEMENT AND A CREDIT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE WORKED
OUT IN TANDEM. I POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT
HAD HIGH PRIORITY WITH US AND COULD BE SETTLED BUT AS
SUGGESTED PREVIOUSLY, THE POSSIBILITIES OF A CREDIT AGREE-
MENT WITHOUT A BOND SETTLEMENT OR TRADE BILL WAS NOT
FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME. EVIDENT THAT LUKANOV IS ATTEMPTING
TO TIE THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT TO CREDITS WHICH WOULD BE
UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT.

5. VISITS: LUKANOV GENTLY RAISED THE POPOV VISIT. AFTER
REASSURING THAT WE CONTINUE TO LOOOK FORWARD TO POPOV'S
VISIT IN THE US, I SUGGESTED THAT ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT
BE FOR HIM TO GO TO THE STATES TO SIGN THE CONSULAR AGREE-
MENT. LUKANOV INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF POPOV
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WENT TO THE STATES TO SIGN A CREDIT AGREEMENT AND DR.
KISSINGER CAME TO BULGARIA TO SIGN THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT.
LUKANOV ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV HAD TOLD HIM
ABOUT MEETING THE SECRETARY AT A RECEIPTION IN NEW YORK.
ACCORDING TO LUKANOV, MLADENOV SAID THE SECRETARY HAD AGREED
TO COME TO BULGARIA IN 1974, AND THE SECRETARY IS ALLEGED
TO HAVE SAID THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO BEING THE FIRST US
SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT BULGARIA. I INDICATED THAT I

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HAD HEARD THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE BUT HAD NO OFFICIAL IN-
FORMATION REGARDING THE CONVERSATION.
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